

SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEW YORK ASYLUM

FOR


IDIOTS.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE, JANUARY 17, 1867.

ALBANY:

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1867.



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TRUSTEES:

JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
ALLEN MUNROE,
HIRAM PUTNAM,

FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
LYMAN CLARY,
SANFORD E. CHURCH,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH.

State Officers—Ex-Officio Trustees.

GOVERNOR FENTON,
FRANCIS C. BARLOW,

STEWART L. WOODFORD,
THOMAS HILLHOUSE,
VICTOR M. RICE.

Permanent Chairman.

HENRY N. POHLMAN.

Secretary and Treasurer.

ALLEN MUNROE.

Executive Committee.

E. W. LEAVENWORTH, JAMES H. TITUS,
ALLEN MUNROE.

OFFICERS:

Superintendent.

HERVEY B. WILBUR, M. D.

Assistant Superintendent.

WALTER KEMPSTER, M. D.

Housekeeper.

MRS. W. KEMPSTER.

Matron.

MISS ALVIRA WOOD.

Teachers.

MISS S. P. YOUNG,	MISS ELIZA K. PARKER,
MISS K. W. BROWNING,	MISS FANNY LORING,
MRS. HARRIET E. DARTE,	MRS. M. E. COOK.

State of New York.

No. 14.

IN SENATE.

January 17, 1867.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

To the Legislature of the State of New York :

Agreeably to the provisions of the act establishing the said asylum, the trustees of the institution respectfully submit this their

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The total cash receipts for the year ending September 30th, 1866, as per the treasurer's report hereto annexed, were as follows:

Balance in the treasury Oct. 1, 1865	\$255 73
Cash from State Treasurer, annual appropriation	21,000 00
special appropriation	6,000 00
Cash from counties for clothing State pupils	1,495 98
Cash from pay-pupils, board, instruction and clothing	3,073 55
Over-draft	2,081 29
	<hr/>
	\$33,906 55

The expenditures for the same period were as follows:

Provisions and supplies of all kinds	\$11,400	84
Salaries of officers and teachers	4,688	33
Wages of attendants and servants	4,690	56
Furniture, furnishing articles, household linen, &c.	2,136	27
Farm, garden, stable, stock, &c.	1,554	95
Repairs, improvements and additions	2,725	86
Fuel	2,168	56
Gas	758	08
Clothing for children	2,764	75
School books, stationery and apparatus	115	82
Printing	55	50
Postage	40	76

Freight and express charges	\$51 21
Expenses in sending children home	38 69
Traveling expenses of trustees and superintendent ..	73 88
Drugs and medicines	113 44
Rent of land	130 00
Insurance	157 50
Interest on loan	71 29
Medical attendance	56 00
Miscellaneous	81 32
In the hands of superintendent	33 00
	<hr/>
	\$33,906 55
	<hr/> <hr/>

On the 30th of Sept., 1866, the Asylum was in debt as follows:

For gas, water, salaries and supplies of various kinds	\$2,235 04
Over-draft at bank	2,081 29
Bank loan and interest	1,552 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,868 33
	<hr/> <hr/>

The cash assets at same date were as follows:

Due from counties for clothing	\$126 00
individuals for clothing	170 00
friends of pay-pupils for board, instruction and clothing	3,041 17
Farm products for sale	195 00
	<hr/>
Total	\$3,532 17
	<hr/>
Showing a deficiency of	\$2,336 16
	<hr/> <hr/>

This deficiency is fully explained in the report of the Superintendent, which is hereunto annexed, with the various causes from which it has arisen.

This board, in its annual report of last year, asked that the annual appropriation might be raised from \$21,000 to \$24,000. We then saw the necessity for such increase, and it would no doubt have been made, had the application been presented in time.

This condition of the financial affairs of the Asylum renders it necessary for the board to ask this year for a special appropriation of \$6,000, in order to provide as well for the above deficiency, as for that likely to occur during the current year.

And in view of the increased number of State pupils, and also of the increased price of some of the leading supplies for the insti-

tution, we are also obliged to ask that the annual appropriation may be raised to \$26,000.

These sums will enable us to cancel our present obligations, and we trust to make our next annual report without showing any deficiency.

We are satisfied that the most rigid economy has been exercised by the officers of the Asylum in its management; but a certain number of pupils were to be cared for, to be taught, to be fed and to be clothed, and a sum that might have been ample before the war would now be manifestly inadequate. The provision for support, then, covered only what was indispensable in the way of care and instruction—only what was absolutely necessary in the way of provisions and supplies. Under such circumstances any retrenchment, in view of the increased cost of everything, was almost out of the question.

In the report of the Superintendent, also, will be found some suggestions as to the necessity of increasing the accommodations and the means of support and instruction for the idiots of the State.

No one familiar with the results attained in this institution, in the way of improving the condition of this class, can question the further duty of the State in the same direction. Were nothing to be hoped from efforts for their instruction, even then provision should be made for better care and management than can be given them in an ordinary home or in a county poor-house.

One of the most important steps taken by society, in the treatment of its dependent classes, has been in the way of classification. By this means the needs of each class—the sick, the aged, the infirm, the insane, the intemperate and vicious, orphan and destitute children, and all with special infirmities—are better seen, and as a consequence can be more fully and economically met.

This is certainly true in the case of those mentally deficient. If no thought of educational measures had occurred to those who originated asylums for idiots, we venture to say that the mere collecting them together in an institution would speedily have been followed by such efforts. No intelligent persons could long have had the care and custody of such an assemblage without seeing that the trouble and expense of their management could be reduced by some degree of instruction. It would be seen at once, unavoidably, that their habits could be improved; that they could be made

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to help themselves somewhat; that they could be taught some simple occupations; that they could be rendered more manageable and obedient. It would soon be seen that it was worth while to give a portion of them some special training that would impart to them dexterity, make them capable of more intelligent labor, and confer such a degree of self-control as would obviate the necessity of a constant supervision. And it would be found, if the experiment were once begun, that each step would prompt another and higher one. The wide difference in degree of mental endowment would have produced these progressive measures.

In view of precisely these conditions, the intelligent commissioners of charity in the city of New York have lately established a school in connection with what was known as the "Idiot House" among their charities, where something more than their merely physical wants could be supplied. They already regard the experiment as quite a success.

Without discussing the question how far down in the scale of idiocy the work of education can practicably go, this much may be said: that some idiots are teachable to an extent which will fully compensate for the amount of labor involved in their instruction. These certainly should be cared for by the State.

It will be seen by the report of the Superintendent, that according to the last census, there were in the State 303 idiots under 15 years of age. No one can examine these returns without being convinced that the actual number is at least double the number so returned. Were only a third of these fit subjects for management and training in a public institution, even then it is obvious that the present provision made by the State falls short of their needs.

But there is no occasion for surmise or doubt. The facts within the knowledge of this board are conclusive upon this point. A moderate increase in the accommodations of our establishment would at once be filled by present applicants, in most instances by those who are manifestly teachable, in a few instances by those who are now a very great care and burden to their friends.

In the early history of the two other State charitable institutions, namely: the Blind Asylum and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, State provision was made for the support and education of a limited number only from each judicial district. All limitation was at last removed. Now, by a consistent and liberal legislation, every blind person and every deaf-mute, of a suitable age, is entitled to an education at the expense of the State, if in

indigent circumstances. The accommodations in the way of buildings, in both the cases mentioned, have kept pace with the number of pupils offering.

We, the Trustees of the Asylum for Idiots, would only ask, then, in behalf of the class whose interests we have been commissioned by the State to guard, that the same policy that rules in regard to the classes referred to, may be extended to these.

If our request is granted, and the principle is established that the means of education shall be gradually supplied till the public want in this respect is fully met, a practical question will arise. Shall the present asylum be enlarged to a moderate extent, or shall a new institution be established? In the opinion of this board, the former course should be taken. The Superintendent has indicated some of the reasons for this course. We may add, that keeping the institution within the limit that will admit of an efficient and economical administration, the same reasons that prompted the selection of the location of the present Asylum originally, would hold good for its enlargement. The site is healthy, central, of easy access from all parts of the State, and the grounds are ample. At no point in the State can the supplies of various kinds needed for its maintenance, on the whole, be purchased to better advantage. The present organization of the Asylum is of such a character that an increase of forty or fifty in the number of pupils would involve but little change in it. We commend, therefore, the suggestions of the Superintendent in this respect, to your favorable consideration.

The statistics of the Asylum will be found in detail in the report of the Superintendent, above referred to.

It affords the trustees great pleasure again to express their perfect satisfaction with the entire management of the institution under its able and indefatigable superintendent, Dr. Wilbur, and to commend him and all his subordinates for their patience, fidelity and success.

HENRY N. POHLMAN,
ALLEN MUNROE,
LYMAN CLARY,
JAMES H. TITUS,
HIRAM PUTNAM,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH,
R. E. FENTON, *Governor.*
FRANCIS C. BARLOW, *Sec. of State.*
V. M. RICE, *Supt. Public Inst.*
THOMAS HILLHOUSE, *Comp.*

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots.

The sixteenth annual report of my management of the affairs of this institution is herewith respectfully submitted:

The by-laws of the Asylum insure three meetings of the board annually. They provide for monthly meetings of the executive committee, at which all financial matters relating to the institution may be discussed and decided. Besides the frequent opportunities of conferring with the local members of the board, leaves me very little to report and very little in the way of suggestion as to our future policy, that is not already familiar to you.

The last year has passed so quickly that there is almost nothing in its history that is worth recalling.

The whole number of pupils in the Asylum during that period was 149. The number in actual attendance was 141. These, with the exception of 16, were beneficiaries of the State.

A few cases of dysentery during the month of September, 1865, of which three were fatal, constituted the only sickness of the school year. Feeble as many of our pupils are, physically, scarcely one of them has failed to appear at table for three consecutive meals during the whole term. We have a healthy site, a well-arranged building, a regular and wholesome diet, and a pretty thorough supervision by the various persons in charge.

Some pupils have been dismissed in accordance with the policy mentioned in our last report. Whenever this has happened, new ones stood ready to take the places thus made vacant.

Even during what is called an annual vacation, in the month of August, when the teachers are away for relaxation, and when such children are taken away as the friends desire to remove, or the Superintendent requires, there remained more than 80 pupils.

There are now 143 pupils actually in the Asylum, and three more engaged. These will more than fill every bed, so that here-

after for every new pupil received, some one of the old ones must be removed.

This being the only institution for the education of idiots in the State, there are at all times pressing applications for the admission of State pupils. It has happened during the past year that several vacancies have occurred in the number of pay-pupils, and these vacancies have at once been filled by the appointment of State pupils. To be sure, the appropriation from the treasury contemplated only the reception of 120 State pupils; yet the State now makes provision for the education of every blind and deaf-mute child within its borders. Unless an unjust discrimination is made between these and the class for whom our institution was designed, the Legislature can hardly fail to sanction by their action this almost unavoidable step taken by your board.

The cost of maintenance and instruction of the State pupils in the Asylum, 120 in number, during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, 1865, was about \$27,000.

At the date of my last report to the board, it was hoped that the cost of support of the Asylum for the fiscal year just past would be some \$3000 less than in the preceding, in view of an anticipated reduction in the cost of all kinds of necessary supplies.

This expectation was not realized. In fact, in the case of three or four leading articles—flour and grain, fresh meat and coal—the cost in the Syracuse market was some 25 per cent more than in any preceding year. These articles alone constitute a third of our annual expenditure.

It is proper to allude to several other sources of the increased expenditure. The furnaces for heating the house and the boilers for generating steam for the laundry had been in use twelve years. The renewal of a portion of these cost in the aggregate one thousand dollars. The increase in the quantity and head of water furnished the Asylum by the city water company, involved the necessity of some change in the water apparatus of the house, at a cost of several hundred dollars more than the average annual repairs.

During the two or three years of high prices, nothing more had been bought than was absolutely indispensable in the way of furniture and household linen. The necessity of replenishing these was unavoidable, and the lessened price was made up by the increased quantity required.

But perhaps the greatest single cause of increased expenditure was in the clothing account. Under the conditions of the law re-

lating to our Asylum, enacted some fifteen years ago, and copied from an enactment in regard to another institution, which dates back a third of a century, we are required to clothe some 80 pupils, at an annual expense to the counties from which they come, not exceeding twenty dollars each. This is manifestly inadequate, and has been so recognized by the Legislature, which, by an enactment two years since, raised the allowance for clothing the pupils in the case of the two other State educational establishments, from \$20 to \$30 each.

The clothing bills for the State pupils the last year were at least \$800 in excess of the provision by the counties to meet them.

The indebtedness of the Asylum, including the cost of support of five additional State pupils, on the 1st of October, 1866, is not much less than \$3,000.

The annual appropriation for the Asylum still remains at the old figures, \$21,000. A year ago the trustees asked that this should be raised to \$24,000. As our report was not presented until after the appropriation bill was made up by the committee of ways and means of the Assembly, the request was not granted. We shall need, therefore, in the supply bill of the present year, \$6,000 to meet the deficiencies of the past and present fiscal year. In view of the increased number of State pupils, the annual appropriation for the coming year should be \$26,000.

When the present Asylum was built, it will be remembered, it was assumed by the board of trustees that it would accommodate about as many pupils as should be gathered in any one establishment. Its capacity was sufficient for 140 pupils. This assumption was made without any actual experience to guide them. After an interval of a dozen years, those concerned in its management would not be disposed to question the wisdom of this opinion of the board, as a general principle. The organization and the arrangements have seemed like those of a family rather than of an institution. This has led to a harmonious action of all concerned in the administration of its affairs, and so added to its efficiency. It has secured the confidence of those who have submitted their children to its care. It has doubtless added to the economy of the care and support of those for whom it was designed. At all events, it has enabled the financial affairs of the institution to be so managed that an examination at any time would readily show whether these were wisely administered or otherwise.

One practical difficulty, however, has embarrassed those in im-

mediate charge of the institution. The form of the building, in most respects exceedingly convenient, does not permit as complete separation of the lowest grade of pupils from the others, as is desirable. It will hardly be regarded as a great oversight on the part of those who planned the present structure, when it is mentioned that this was the first building erected in this country, in fact in any country, for this special purpose. Some concessions also were made to the views of the architect, which made the structure a little more compact than it would otherwise have been. To meet this difficulty, I venture to recommend either an addition to the present building or a distinct building, for the occupation of the lowest class of our pupils.

There is another reason for such addition which may be suggested. Could our buildings accommodate them, and were the necessary funds supplied for their support, more than twenty pupils would be presented at once. That is to say, we have now that number of applications that we are compelled for the present to refuse.

The excess of applications for admission over those dismissed at our annual periods for the dismissal of pupils, is a constantly increasing one. The estimation in which the Asylum is held as a means of benefit to the class for whom it is designed, and as a relief to the families in which such cases occur, is beginning to be manifested in a new form. The application for the admission of a new pupil comes now very frequently coupled with a reference to some case from the county, town or neighborhood (known to the applicant), as already in the institution, or that has received its benefits, either in the way of improvement to the case itself, or great relief to the friends. The appeal is the more urgent because checked by none of the doubts that might have existed at an earlier day in the history of the institution.

There is at this moment an application just received that so well illustrates this point, as also the urgent nature of some of the calls for the relief the Asylum should afford, that it may properly be inserted here:

NEW YORK CITY.

“Dear Sir—Mrs. ———, from this city, known to you as a lady whose child has been left under your charge in the Idiot Asylum at Syracuse, and with whom I have become acquainted, has advised me to make application to you for the acceptance into your estab-

lishment of one of my own children which is so unfortunate as to be idiotic, so much so as to be a heavy charge upon us.

I am over fifteen years in this country, duly naturalized, and a mechanic, since many years employed by the firm of ————. I have six children, three of whom attend school, one is about three years of age, and my youngest a babe. The sixth child is that unhappy child aforesaid, a daughter of about six years old. She is otherwise perfectly healthy, not liable to fits, well built, tolerably clean, has a perfect eyesight and hearing, but cannot speak. She understands only to a certain extent, and cannot be left alone or out of sight for a moment, as she is constantly in some mischief. Her playing with her younger sister is frequently interrupted with attempts at injury, of the wrong of which she has no conception. She likes to upset the baby's cradle, to play with fire, attempts to choke the babe, climbs up to the reach of household articles which she throws about, and also opens drawers for the same purpose. She screams frequently to the annoyance of the tenants of the same house, and causes us to be in constant anxiety, that the landlord may not allow us to stay on account of complaints from the other tenants, who, on their part, are also much afraid of a possibility of fire through her mischief. You may easily imagine our sufferings, and the slavish life of constant watching my wife is caused to live, to the serious neglect of her other children and herself.

Our desire is to place her under the charge of such an one as you are represented to be by Mrs. ———, and beg you to advise me as soon as convenient, whether and when you will be ready to grant our wish of seeing her placed in your excellent institution, and of the consequent conditions.

With the assurance of my deepest respect,

————— ”

The child to whom reference is made in the letter as being already in the asylum, deserves a passing notice. He is not a promising case so far as the work of instruction is concerned. But the relief to the parents by having him cared for away from home can hardly be estimated, except with a knowledge of the circumstances connected with it. The father an industrious mechanic, with a wife and two or three other children, occupies rooms in the third story of a tenement house in New York city. Noisy, restless and troublesome, he kept his mother in perpetual fear, lest he should do some mischief or meet with some accident. She could not exercise him in the street, for the attempt to do so attracted a

crowd of children to notice his strange actions and singular cries. In the house the windows must be fastened down to keep him from falling out. The other children were not safe at his hands. In fact, such a nuisance in the house had he become, that the landlord was compelled to give them notice that he could not retain them longer as tenants, unless some disposition could be made of this boy. Nor are such as these solitary cases.

The demand then for greater accommodation for this class is obvious. The State is just now erecting several new establishments for other classes of its unfortunates, and perhaps is hardly ready to supply a new institution to meet this demand. Meanwhile a moderate addition to the present structure would furnish the quickest relief, and certainly the most economical mode of providing for the care and education of an additional number of idiots.

It falls within the proper function of your board, as being most cognizant of the facts, to call the attention of the legislature to the necessity of a more liberal provision for the want thus indicated. Of course there are none more competent to suggest the proper method of meeting this want.

In the last annual report some of the results, general and particular of the system of training and instruction adopted in the institution were given. It was then expected that the census returns would furnish some additional light, as to the number of idiots in the State, to be embodied in the report of this year. This expectation has not been realised. That the reported number falls far short of the real number is evident. The total number returned in the State was, in the census of

1825	1,421
1835	1,684
1845	1,610
1855	1,812
1865	1,451

In this enumeration of idiots are evidently included many who have become demented after insanity, for among the 1,451 returned, 100 are reported as having been married, and more than 400 were more than forty years of age.

It will be seen that about the same number are returned by the present census as in 1825, when the population was only one-half what it now is; and considerably less than in 1855.

This would be a gratifying fact, if true. But in 1852, some investigations were made by your board to ascertain the number of idiots in the State. The results they obtained were unsatis-

factory and imperfect as a whole. Where the inquiries were pursued with any approach to accuracy, enough was ascertained to show that the census of 1850 had scarcely reported one-half the actual number.

In 1855 a list of the idiots of the State, copied from the census of that year, was sent to this institution, and of several hundred idiots known to its officers by correspondence and otherwise, there were hardly a dozen whose names appeared in this list.

Examining the returns of the present census in detail, one would have reason to infer that the present census, in the matter of accuracy in this regard, has no advantage over preceding ones.

Cortland county returns one idiot to every 900 of its population, while New York, Kings and Richmond counties only one to every 9,000.

Nine counties, representing almost as many different sections of the State, but not containing any very large towns, return one to every 1,160 of the population.

Albany, Dutchess and Queens counties show one idiot to every 5,000 of their population.

Allegany, Chemung, Columbia, Franklin and nine other counties, one to every 3,000. While eighteen others, one to every 2,000 inhabitants.

There are no conditions or circumstances that can account for such discrepancies, except the failure of the canvassers to make the proper inquiries.

The total number of idiots under fifteen years of age, was 313.

Of course such returns are of no value for any purpose.

As was stated a year ago, this much may be said of the number of idiots in the State, that the public provision, both in buildings for their accommodation and in the necessary means for the maintenance and instruction of those certainly of a teachable age and condition, falls far short of the present demand.

Each year adds to the number of States that are taking measures for the greater or less relief of idiots.

The city of New York has lately added a school for idiots to its various charities.

I tender again my thanks to the board for their continued kind appreciation of my own personal supervision of the affairs of the Asylum. I renew my acknowledgments to my assistants of every kind for their efficient co-operation.

H. B. WILBUR, *Superintendent.*

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

ALLEN MUNROE, *Treasurer of New York Asylum for Idiots, in account current with the State of New York, for cash received and expended for the general supplies, and the salaries and wages of officers, teachers, attendants and servants of said Asylum, during the year ending September 30th, 1866.*

1865.

DR.

Oct. 1.	To balance on hand in Treasury	\$255 73
	To cash from State Treasurer, annual appro'n	21,000 00
	do do special appro'n	6,000 00
	To cash from counties for clothing State pupils	1,495 98
	To cash from pay pupils, board, instruction and clothing	3,073 55
	Overdraft	2,081 29
		<u>\$33,906,55</u>

1866.

CR.

Jan. 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee during quarter ending Dec. 31, 1865,	\$8,418 23
April 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee during quarter ending March 31, 1866,	9,373 32
July 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee during quarter ending June 30, 1866,	7,308 51
Sept. 30.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee during quarter ending Sept. 30, 1866,	8,806 49
		<u>\$33,906 55</u>

ALLEN MUNROE, *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX.

Extract from the By-Laws of the Asylum.

“The design and objects of the Asylum, as established by the action of the Legislature, are not of a custodial character, but to furnish the means of education to that portion of the youth of the State, not provided for in any of its other educational institutions. Those only will therefore be received into the Asylum, who are of a proper school-attending age, and for such periods of time as shall, in the estimation of the Board of Trustees, suffice to impart all the education practicable in each particular case, and in conformity with the regulations hereinafter specified.

Children between the ages of seven and fourteen, who are idiotic, or so deficient in intelligence as to be incapable of being educated at any ordinary school, and who are not epileptic, insane or greatly deformed, may be admitted by the Superintendent with the advice and consent of the executive committee. Applications in behalf of others shall be referred to the action of the Board of Trustees.

The parents or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils, shall make answers in writing to such questions as the Superintendent and committee shall prescribe. They shall, moreover, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of the pupils, and to furnish them with such proper clothing while in the institution, as shall be stipulated by the Superintendent, and they shall in all cases be bound to receive them back, when required, free of expense to the Asylum. But no idiots shall be received into the Asylum, without there shall have been first lodged with the Superintendent thereof, a request to that effect, under the hand of the person by whose direction he is sent, stating the age and place of nativity, if known, of the idiot, his christian and surname, the town or city, and county in which they severally reside, the ability or otherwise, of the idiot, his parents or guardians, to provide for his support in whole or in part, and if in part only, in what part, and the degree of relationship, or other circumstances of connection between him and the person requesting his admission; which statement shall be veri-

fied in writing, by the oath of two disinterested persons, residents of the same county with the idiot, acquainted with the facts and circumstances so stated, and certified to be credible by the county judge of the same county. And no idiot shall be received into said Asylum unless the county judge of the county liable for his support, shall certify that such idiot is an eligible and proper candidate for admission to said Asylum as aforesaid.

The State pupils in the Asylum will be selected in equal numbers, as far as may be, from each judicial district, from those whose parents or guardians are unable to provide for their support therein.

The State pupils will be expected to come to the Asylum provided with a supply of neat and substantial clothing for the first six months, after which period the clothing will be furnished by the Asylum, at the expense of the respective counties of which they are residents, as in the case of the deaf and dumb and the blind asylums of the State.

A bond will be required in all cases, except the case of a State pupil, to insure the removal of the pupil free of expense to the institution.

All pupils will be received upon trial for one month, at the end of which time a report upon the case will be made to the parents or parties sending them.

The education furnished by the institution will include not only the simpler elements of instruction usually taught in common schools, where that is practicable, but will embrace a course of training in the more practical matters of every day life, the cultivation of habits of decency, propriety, self-management and self-reliance, and the development and enlargement of a capacity for useful occupation.

There shall be a vacation during the whole month of August, unless otherwise directed by the board, at which period all pupils must be removed from the Asylum, by the parents or guardians, if required by the Superintendent.

Applications for admission to the Asylum, stating age, sex, general health, and such other particulars as will enable the Trustees to judge of the teachableness of the person for whom application is made, must be directed to the Superintendent, Dr. H. B. WILBUR."

It will be seen by reference to the foregoing, just what the mode of admission is.

Application is first made to the Superintendent of the Asylum, furnishing such particulars of the condition of the person for whom

application is made, as will enable the Executive Committee to decide whether the party is a suitable subject for admission.

If the case come within the purpose of the institution, a blank form of application is at once sent, which when filled up and returned to the Superintendent, furnishes a statement of the name, residence, &c., of the party, and his or her pecuniary condition, or the pecuniary condition of his or her parents, verified by the affidavit of two persons acquainted with the circumstances related in the statement, and confirmed by the certificate of the county judge.

On the return of this circular, if there is a vacancy from the judicial district in which the party resides, permission is at once given for his or her admission.

If no vacancy exists at the time, the parties interested are so notified, and the application is filed—the applicant to receive the benefit of the first vacancy, in turn.

It is provided in the by-laws that each pupil shall be taken on trial. The probationary period named is one month. The practice has been otherwise. The cases rejected on trial have usually been retained a much longer period; at all events, till it was certain that they were not suitable subjects for improvement.

The grounds upon which pupils have been dismissed under this rule hitherto, have been, first: serious ill-health that seemed likely to terminate in a speedy death. In most of the cases included under this head, the wisdom of the decision requiring their removal has been verified by the fact that they died not many months afterwards. Next: confirmed epilepsy. When this disease has been fully developed, the same reasons that suggested the article in the by-laws against the admission of epileptics would require their dismissal.

Again, true dementia, or a loss of mind resulting from organic lesion of the brain, as a consequence of some disease in infancy or childhood.

Again, cases of idiocy conjoined with insanity. In these, the very measures of management and instruction adopted in the case of idiocy, only excite and aggravate the peculiarities presented; and as there is no proper provision in the institution for confinement, seclusion or restraint, their dismissal is rendered unavoidable.

In a few cases only, it could be said that all efforts to educate or radically improve that the asylum afforded, had failed of their purpose.